

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A processing system comprising at least a user terminal in a user location, a server coupled to said user terminal, a communication network, and an interface device located between said network and said user terminal, said interface device comprising:

(a) means for formatting incoming data received from said terminal into packets identified by headers ~~and available to be~~ and that can be sent towards said network;

(b) means for identifying packets received from the network and forwarding them to the terminal;

(c) means for managing and controlling an output bitrate and handling a delivery monitoring service of said packets on the network according to said output bitrate, comprising:

a receiving stage for receiving incoming packets from the network;

an analysis stage for analyzing the incoming packets;

a statistics processing stage for computing statistics based on analysis provided by the analysis stage;

a formatting stage for creating packets to be sent toward said network; and

an output bitrate adjusting stage for selectively adjusting the output bitrate based on the computed statistics, wherein the output bitrate is adjusted by providing a plurality of bitstreams encoded at different bitrates and selecting one of the plurality of bitstreams based on the computed statistics.

2. (Previously Presented) The processing system of claim 1, wherein the means for formatting incoming data received from said terminal into packets identified by headers is configured to:

format the incoming data into real-time protocol (RTP) packets; and
send the RTP packets with RTP headers towards the network.

3. (Previously Presented) The processing system of claim 1, wherein the means for identifying packets received from the network and forwarding them to the terminal is configured to:

receive real-time protocol (RTP) packets from the network;

and

store data in view of their transmission to a current application running on the user terminal.

4. (Previously Presented) The processing system of claim 1, wherein the receiving stage receives real-time control protocol (RTCP) packets arriving from the network.

5. (Previously Presented) The processing system of claim 4, wherein the analysis stage analyzes the (RTCP) packets arriving from the network.

6. (Previously Presented) The processing system of claim 5, wherein the statistics processing stage computes statistics when real-time protocol (RTP) packets are received from the network and when RTCP packets are received or sent.

7. (Previously Presented) The processing system of claim 6, wherein the statistics computed when real-time protocol (RTP) packets are received from the network comprise at least one of a number of RTP packets received, packet loss, and delays.

8. (Previously Presented) The processing system of claim 6, wherein the statistics computed when RTCP packets are received or sent comprise an error rate.